

# Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No. 1765, January 17, 1953

## WORLD'S OLDEST FISH

Coelacanth a link with the days when Earth itself was young

THE fish that swam onto the front pages of the world's newspapers, the coelacanth, has excited scientists as much as if a living prehistoric giant reptile had been discovered. For this five-foot-long curiosity, caught off the coast of Madagascar, is of a kind which until quite recent times was thought to have become extinct 60 million years ago.

## PIGEON POST FOR THE PATIENT

A radio SOS to the mainland brought prompt medical assistance the other day to the sick daughter of one of the lighthouse keepers on lonely Ailsa Craig, in the Firth of Clyde, and the incident recalled a similar one in the days before wireless.

A child on the Craig fell sick and a doctor was summoned by means of one of the carrier pigeons kept at the lighthouse for such an emergency. The doctor duly arrived, but a wild storm prevented his sending to the mainland for the medicine which he found was necessary.

He wrote out a prescription, however, and clipped it to the leg of another pigeon, which bravely fought its way through the buffeting winds to the Ayrshire coast. A third pigeon then returned to the lighthouse with medicine which in all probability saved the child's life.

## CHILDREN'S OWN BANK

One of the most unusual banks in the world is at Cleveland, Ohio. It is open only to children, who may open accounts from the age of five.

As little as 3d. a week can be deposited, the main object of the bank being to encourage children to put something away each week, the habit of regular saving being more important than the actual amount.

## SO TIRED

Tuning in as usual to an early-morning Rise and Shine programme at San Mateo, California, listeners were surprised to hear, not the familiar cheery voice of the announcer bidding them a brisk "Good morning," but a steady series of snores.

Police investigated and found the announcer asleep beside his microphone.

## INITIAL ERROR

A Margate man travelling by rail to London the other day had a surprise. On the panelling of the compartment, still visible under coats of paint, were his initials, carved by him over 50 years ago, when as a small boy he had known no better.

To the man who landed the 100-lb. monstrosity with hook and line, an Arab named Ahmed Hussein, it was no more than a good catch in the day's work. His fish was slit open and taken to the market on Anjouan Island in the Comoros in the hope of finding a buyer.

Fortunately, a white man, Mr. Eric Hunt, recognised the extreme importance of the catch, and sent a cable to Professor J. L. B. Smith of Rhodes University, a distinguished palaeontologist. The professor got into touch with the Prime Minister, Dr. Malan, who immediately ordered a South African Air Force plane to take Professor Smith to secure this strange survivor of a primeval race.

## OLDER THAN THE HILLS

Coelacanth's primitive ancestors, to be seen as fossils in museums, were far older than any of the great dinosaurs. They first appeared some 300 million years ago or more, when the coal we now burn was being formed. They were swimming in the oceans long before the Alps or the Himalayas took shape.

They were big enough to have fewer enemies than friends, and their race endured unchanged for many millions of years. But they dwindled and disappeared at last—perhaps because their food supply failed, or enemies were evolved. Only fossil strata preserving their remains bore witness to their existence.

Ahmed Hussein's "fish with arms," as his friends called it, is the second to be reported in our time. In 1938 one of these visitors from the shadowy past strayed into a trawler's net among red fish and sharks off the South African coast.

## TOO LATE

The fishermen of that trawler gazed in amazement at a creature that was steely blue, weighed some 127 lbs., and was unusually oily. It was taken to East London, in Cape Province.

On that occasion Professor Smith was on holiday. Before he could return to stop the destruction of this priceless specimen, it had been skinned and mounted by a local taxidermist.

The internal organs and the flesh, which scientists everywhere are intensely curious to know about, had been thrown away. Later Professor Smith offered £100 reward

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## New Elizabethan



The picturesque warders of the Tower of London now have the Queen's cypher, E R, emblazoned on the tunics of their scarlet, black, and gold uniforms, which have scarcely altered since Tudor times. Our picture shows a Yeoman Gaoler on duty with his ancient axe.

## 250,000 CHILDREN ADOPT SHIPS AT SEA

This year more than a quarter of a million British boys and girls will be plotting on maps or charts the courses of their adopted ships across the oceans.

Pupils at 797 schools have been allotted ships ranging from small cargo vessels to weather ships and liners by the British Ship Adoption Society.

The Society itself began the New Year afloat in its new headquarters aboard the Honourable Company of Master Mariners' Ship H.Q.S. Wellington, which is moored off the Thames Embankment.

The Society's biggest problem is that there are not enough ships for all the schools which want to adopt them.

## WAITING LIST

"We started the year with a waiting list of 80 schools," Miss K. V. Friend, assistant secretary of the Society, told a CN correspondent. "We hope new applicants will not be disappointed if they have to wait six months before even going on the waiting-list."

Nearly every school sent the master and crew of their ship cards or calendars for Christmas and the New Year. In many instances, too, there were school-made gifts such as ashtrays, pipe-racks, and food parcels.

Some schools sent wireless greetings which were picked up on the ships' own receivers at sea.

The men of the Merchant Navy, for their part, have taken pride in finding unusual and interesting souvenirs for the children.

## CANOE FROM A CREW

"Our biggest problem last year," Miss Friend said, "was despatching a 20-foot catamaran—a kind of fishing canoe with an outrigger—from our offices in the City to a school in North London. It had been sent from Hong Kong by a ship's crew."

Blind children are among those who are adopting ships. One crew which has been adopted by a blind school consulted the staff of a similar school in Buenos Aires before sending their gift—a set of gramophone records of South American folk-songs.

The Queen is Patron of the Society, and many London children are planning to send their seafaring friends illustrated accounts of the Coronation.

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## PARTNERSHIP PLANS FOR CENTRAL AFRICA

By the CN Diplomatic Correspondent

**D**URING the past two weeks the tremendous project of creating a partnership State in Central Africa has been the subject of a conference in London.

The long-considered idea of linking Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia, and Nyasaland in a Federation has reached a vital stage. Like most big schemes, it bristles with difficulties—the difficulties in this case lying mainly in opposition based on racial suspicions.

Leaders of the two Rhodesias and Nyasaland, along with Ministers of the British Government, have been gathered round the drawing-board plans for the proposed Federation, so to speak, to settle exact details.

They have called on the advice of some 40 experts in Colonial affairs, authorities in the making of constitutions, and advisers in administration.

So far as was possible the plans had to be perfect. Once they came off the drawing-board and Government decisions had been made, there could be no going back. The future of some five million people in the three Central African territories is at stake.

### S. RHODESIA'S PART

Afterwards it would be for Southern Rhodesia, as a self-governing colony, to hold a referendum on the plan, answering the simple question—should Federation proceed or be abandoned?

Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland are British Protectorates, but the scheme would be debated in their Legislatures. The succeeding steps envisaged by the London conference included the British Government's decision on the matter, a debate in both Houses of Parliament in Britain and, if no further disagreements arose, the passing of an Enabling Bill.

This would ratify the Federation, and all that would then be required would be an Order in Council from the Queen to launch it at the appropriate moment.

Naturally, there would have to be an interval for setting up a Central Parliament and a civil service for smooth administration, matters which take months of preparation.

### BRITISH CHAMPIONS

Lord Swinton, Commonwealth Relations Secretary, and Mr. Oliver Lyttelton, the Colonial Secretary, have been Britain's two leading champions of a Central African Federation. Both of them have said that the scheme would bring greater prosperity, welfare, and political advancement to the territories.

They have given a warning that without Federation there is a grave danger of progress being halted for all the peoples concerned. The sense of urgency felt by the British Cabinet Ministers has not been lessened by disagreements between the white people in the territories and the African population.

Many white people feel that the scheme for Federation will endow the Africans with too much power. African people, on the other hand, are suspicious of the scheme because they believe that all or

most of the governing power would go to the Europeans.

It seems certain that there is considerable lack of knowledge among the Africans generally as to what exactly the Federation scheme means. Those who do understand it also tend to argue that the three territories have made good progress separately and therefore it would be unwise on this evidence for them to unite.

Strong advocates in the territories for Federation have tried hard to remove all these suspicions. A leading part has been played by Sir Godfrey Huggins, Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia, who argues that the uniting of Central Africa would preserve the British way of life there, and at the same time help the Africans.

Britain has also held fast to the ideals of a partnership State. The fears of the Africans have received the most anxious consideration, and for this reason special provisions were envisaged in the scheme.

### TRUSTEESHIP

These were to ensure that Britain's trusteeship for the African races shall be safeguarded in a number of ways. An African Affairs Board would have power to see that any action by the Federal Government which appears to be to the disadvantage of the Africans must be referred to the British Government.

The Federation would not have the status of a Commonwealth country, but it would become a self-governing Colony—much as Southern Rhodesia is now—hedged around with protections for the Africans.

## A Mother's Promise

Behind the award of the M.B.E. to Mrs. Amy S. Clewer, of Bradford, is the story of a promise made almost 38 years ago.

In the early months of 1915, Mrs. Clewer said "Goodbye" to her only son, George, on Bradford station, as he left for war service overseas. George was keenly interested in Wolf Cub and Scout work, and his mother promised that if he did not return she would carry on his work among boys.

George, a 20-year-old R.A.M.C. private, was killed in the Dardanelles. His mother, who is now 85, kept her word, and has been awarded the M.B.E. for 37 years' unbroken service in the Wolf Cub movement.

Mrs. Clewer has held four officer warrants, and helped to train hundreds of Cubs and their leaders. Two months ago she resigned her high office as Akela (leader) for West Yorkshire. But she still retains her office of Assistant District Commissioner for Bradford.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS GALORE

Although Christmas has come and gone, eight-year-old Vivienne Whittaker, of Ardleigh, Essex, is still receiving and sending out Christmas cards by the hundred.

The CN reported at the time how Vivienne advertised early in 1952 for Christmas cards, which she intended to cut up for adorning missionary messages to foreign lands. To her astonishment they poured in by hundreds of thousands!

Now, after nine months, the flood has abated somewhat, but there is still a steady flow of cards. With many sacks of them still stored away for sorting, the end of Vivienne's pleasant and self-imposed task is still not in sight.

### BLACK LOOKS

There has been a shortage of black eyeshades in London chemists' shops. They have all been bought for pirate costumes for parties!

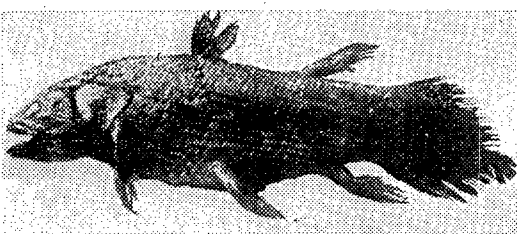
## WORLD'S OLDEST FISH

Continued from page 1

another specimen of the fish.

Now Coelacanth the Second has reached the laboratory almost intact, having been preserved in formalin. Most of its flesh and intestines are there, and Professor Smith has promised himself a year of absorbing research.

His studies and those of other scientists will contribute an important chapter to the story of Evolution, for it is expected that coelacanth will turn out to be a link between the fishes and reptiles—and thus a distant ancestor of Man.



A specimen of the Coelacanth

The name coelacanth, which is pronounced *seelakanth*, means "hollow spine," but this 20th-century member of the old family has been called *Malania anjouanar*, after the South African Prime Minister. It is of a different species from the one caught in 1938.

The natives of the Comoro Islands say that in the past they have occasionally caught other fish like this one, and that when boiled they turn to jelly. Professor Smith is most anxious to get a completely fresh specimen, and has appealed for a volunteer with a good vessel to go on a coelacanth hunt with him and his wife next August.

The riddle of the coelacanth is likely to provoke world-wide interest this year.

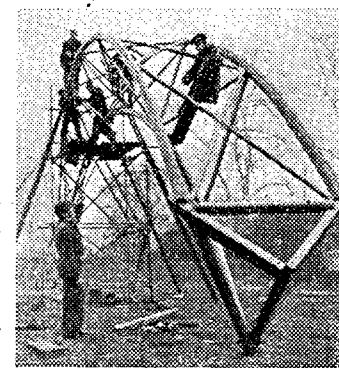
## News from Everywhere

### WAITING-ROOM ZOO

A dentist in West Berlin has found a novel way of taking his patients' minds off their dental troubles. He has set up a small reptile zoo in his waiting-room.

Over 300 lilies, grown from bulbs which are a Coronation year gift from British Columbia, will bloom in London's Royal Parks in the summer.

The principal Clyde shipyards last year launched 79 vessels of 450,378 tons gross, their best year for new tonnage since the war. The biggest ship launched was a 32,000-ton tanker, British Sailor.



These workmen in Regent's Park are experimenting with the erection of an arch to be placed in the Mall for the Coronation.

### BIT OF A DO

Awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in Korea, Captain Richard Sullivan described the battle in a letter home as a "bit of a do."

A small hydrogen balloon released at Ramsgate travelled half-way round the world and was found at San Pablo, California, six weeks later. The balloon was one of several sent up by boys of St. Lawrence College.

A five-foot basking shark was caught by two boys fishing off the North Cornish coast.

An egg with three yolks has been laid by a hen at Betley, in Staffordshire.

### INFRINGEMENT

The referee in a Nottingham Forest soccer match stopped the game to chase a dog which had seized a goalkeeper's cap and gloves.

An exhibition of Saxon relics found in Essex is being held at Dagenham from January 17-31.

The world's airlines carried 45 million passengers last year, five million more than in 1951.

Mr. Robert Patterson, railway signalman at Scotwood, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, set all the signals in his section at danger when he felt himself collapsing. He died on the way to hospital.

### WHERE COOK LANDED

A memorial is to be erected on Norfolk Island, in the Tasman Sea about 900 miles from the coast of Australia, at the point where Captain Cook is believed to have landed in 1774.

A man in Sydney found a wrist-watch in a tin of peaches; a fishmonger in Toulouse found five pearls in an oyster.

A Bury, Lancashire, firm is to supply £500,000-worth of newsprint machinery to New Zealand.

### ROYAL SEND-OFF

Taken to Wolferton railway station to give a send-off to the Duchess of Kent, Prince Charles not only said goodbye; he blew the guard's whistle and signalled with the green flag for the train to move off.

A new 33,000-volt electricity sub-station at Sidcup, Kent, works automatically, without staff.

Mounted police are now a thing of the past in New Zealand. The last horse has been retired.

Partly-deaf schoolchildren in Bristol are to be taught lip-reading so that they may follow their lessons more easily.

### CANADIAN DISCOVERIES

A vast oilfield has been discovered in James Bay, Northern Ontario, and a multi-million-ton deposit of iron ore has been found in Ungava Bay, 750 miles north of Quebec.

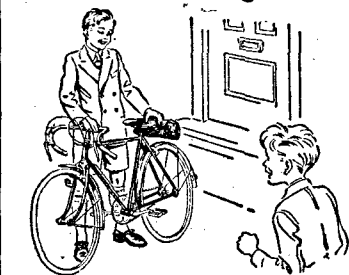
The U.S. Air Force has developed a space-travel suit able to resist temperatures up to 1000 degrees Fahrenheit.

American television viewers will see the Coronation on the day that it takes place. A film of it will be flown across the Atlantic.

Remains of 28 animals, perhaps 25,000 years old, have been found in a cave in Maryland, U.S.

New plant installed by the British Electricity Authority last year produced an extra output capacity of 1,539,000 kilowatts, a record.

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The Children's Newspaper, January 17, 1953

## DYING TRIBE RECOVERS

Australian Aborigines of the Muranahata tribe, who were reported to be dying out 17 years ago, are now increasing in number.

So declares Dr. W. E. H. Stanner, Anthropologist to the National University of Canberra, who has visited the tribe in their area 150 miles from Darwin. He had not seen them since 1935.

Then they were savage, completely uncivilised, and declining in numbers. During that visit native spears flashed around a tent evening after evening while a priest inside was saying prayers. Several Asiatics had been speared to death in the area.

Dr. Stanner reports a remarkable increase in the mission's population during the last 20 years, and he believes there may be double the present number of natives in another 20 years.

The increase has been brought about by good medical service and moral guidance—the work of missionaries.

## COSTLY HARNESS

The State harness is now being overhauled ready for the great occasion when it will be worn by the team of eight Windsor greys which will draw the State coach at the Coronation.

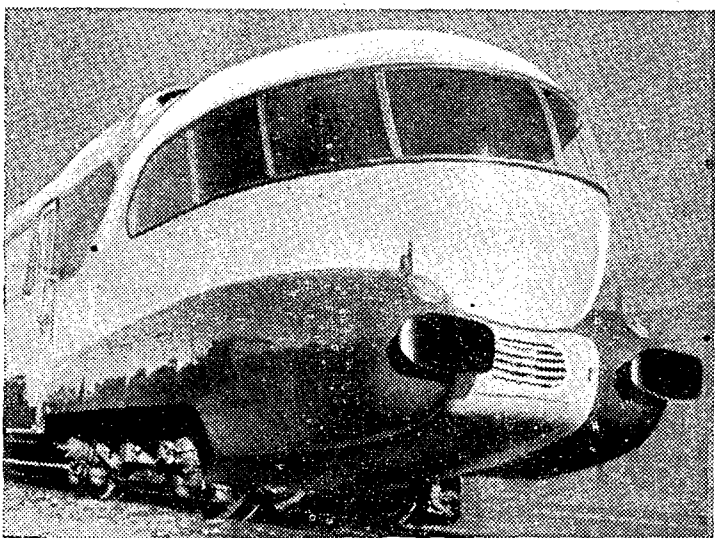
They are probably the most valuable sets of harness in the world; even when they were made (for the diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897) they were valued at £15,000.

Each set, originally cut from a single hide of Moroccan leather, weighs 128 lbs., and to preserve them properly the eight sets are always kept on dummy horses in the Royal stables.

## EISENHOPPER

Mr. Eisenhower sometimes gives distinguished visitors a start by placing a toy grasshopper on his desk. Immediately he lets go, the grasshopper leaps to the ceiling.

Fitted with a suction cup and wire spring legs, it hops when it is released after being pressed to the desk surface.



150 m.p.h. electric train

This Italian streamlined electric train has been built for service between Milan and Rome. It is capable of 150 m.p.h. and will reduce travelling time between the two cities from eight to five-and-a-half hours.

## YOUNG BANDSMEN ON PARADE

The Boys' Brigade are to make an early start in celebrating Coronation Year. On January 24 the massed brass bands of the London District, consisting of nearly 200 young instrumentalists from 12 bands, will give a concert in the Royal Festival Hall.

The conductor is to be Mr. Frank Wright, who is well known for his encouragement of young musicians. Such an imposing array of well-trained, well-led young bandsmen should provide stirring entertainment. Seats, from 2s. 6d. to 7s. 6d., can be obtained from the London Secretary, The Boys' Brigade, Abbey House, London, S.W.1.

## WE ARE SHOCKINGLY FORGETFUL

An interesting memorising experiment is described in this month's issue of Family Doctor, which is published by the British Medical Association.

A group of students were given a list of words to memorise, which they did quite easily. Then startling things began to happen.

The lights in the room went out suddenly, a revolver was fired, a sheet of metal crashed to the floor, the backs of the students' chairs mysteriously collapsed, and the chair arms gave them electric shocks.

Afterwards they were asked to repeat the words they had learned, and they could remember hardly any of them!

The experiment shows how shocks can cause us to forget things—even a generation that grew up amid the shocks of war.

## PLASTIC CAR

One of the new 1953 American cars will have an all-plastic body—made from glass. Glass fibre mixed with plastic resins can be moulded into almost any shape and sets as hard and tough as many metals.

A plastic body is not only cheaper, but there is a considerable saving in weight, which means livelier acceleration, more miles per gallon, and better braking.



## Let's wait for the next one

A bus queue with a difference—in Ahmedabad, India's great cotton textile city. Perhaps the seven Jackos are planning to travel free on top if the next bus is also full inside.

## A WAY THEY HAVE IN CHINA

For countless centuries Chinese farmers have used the powdered roots of the Thunder-God vine to protect their crops from pests.

Modern science has produced all kinds of wonderful insecticides which are very effective—for a time. But eventually the pests get accustomed to what was previously poisoning them and become immune.

The root of the Chinese vine has a more permanent effect, so specimens are being cultivated by the United States Department of Agriculture to see if, perhaps, the Chinese knew best all the time.

## CYCLING FOR 18 MONTHS

A certain young man who arrived in London in time to celebrate the New Year had taken 18 months to reach there. He is a 25-year-old cyclist named Zaman who left Decca in East Pakistan in July 1951, and has since travelled through India, Ceylon, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Switzerland, and France.

## ELECTRONIC SNIFF TO FIND LEAKS

To detect leaks in electrical conduits and similar piping, a new electronic "nose" is carried or drawn alongside the system. At the same time a volatile liquid, similar to that used in refrigerators, is poured into the pipes.

If there is a leak, vapour from the evaporating liquid will escape through it. The "nose" will detect this and indicate where the fault is.

## SHE REMEMBERED DICKENS

Mrs. Jemima Greenfield, who lives in south-east London, used to serve soup to Charles Dickens in a London coffee-house when she was very young. He liked her to wait on him, and would talk to her about his novels.

Now she is 100, and has a pension from the News-vendors' Benevolent Institution, of which he was a president.

## PLEASANT TALE OF GRATITUDE

When Mr. James Waterworth, of Brierfield, Lancashire, was 19 he dived into the local canal and rescued three-year-old Maude Hartley from drowning. That was 53 years ago. Recently he celebrated his golden wedding.

The other day the young girl he rescued, now married and living in New York, saw a report of her rescuer's golden wedding in a local paper sent to her from her home town.

And just to show her gratitude had not waned with the passing years she sent over a special hamper of good things for Mr. and Mrs. Waterworth.

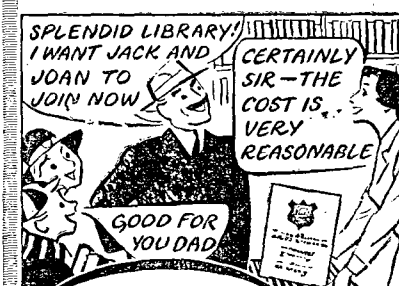
## EXIT THE DROVER

Sheep droving, for years the subject of thousands of Australian stories and oil paintings, is dying out. Huge motor-truck transports are taking over the drover's job.

These road vehicles take sheep much faster than by droving and with reasonable economy: at 2s. 6d. a mile the large floats carry flocks of up to 200 sheep direct from the sale-yards to the graziers or from the grazier to the yards—frequently a distance of 250 miles.

And these road-transported sheep bring a much higher price than those who have been driven. They leave the green fields fresh in the morning and reach their destination in excellent condition ready for the sales the following day.

## The Twins go Adventuring



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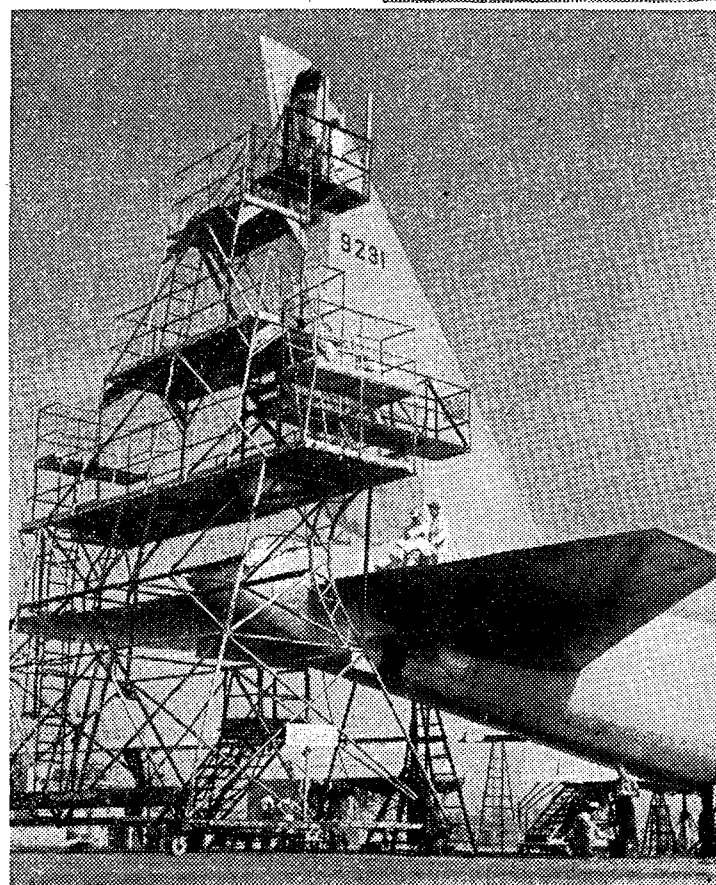
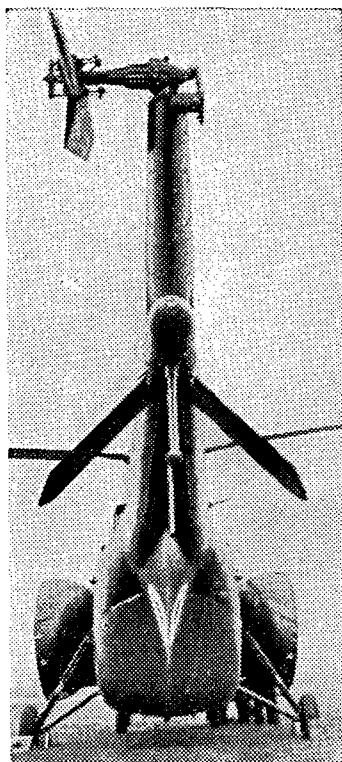
## Tails up!

The picture on the right shows the fin and rudder of an American S55 helicopter, seen from the rear, and below is the 48-foot-high tail of a Boeing B-52 Stratofortress. Mobile, scaffolding enables the mechanics to carry out inspections of the huge tail, the tip of which folds over to one side to clear hangar roofs. A braking parachute is fitted to the tail.

Another tail in the news is that of the Avro Vulcan delta bomber, which is to have a ribbon-type parachute fitted to it to halve the plane's landing run.

It will reduce the wear on the plane's wheel brakes to the extent that ten times as many landings can be made before the brakes have to be checked.

The design originated in Germany during the war, when stocks of suitable "solid" material ran out. The hat-band trade was asked to supply ribbon, and the advantages of ribbon parachutes were soon realised.



At work on the tail of the eight-jet Stratofortress

## MOST POPULAR CLASSICS

Well-known publishers have been reporting on the most widely-read classics of English literature last year.

The most popular of Collins's pocket classics was *Pride and Prejudice*, with *David Copperfield* second, and *Jane Eyre* third. After them came *Lamb's Tales from Shakespeare*, *Oliver Twist*, *Wuthering Heights*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Our Mutual Friend*, *H. G. Wells's The History of Mr. Polly*, and *Louisa Alcott's Little Women*.

Most of these books were also among the 50 most popular in the Everyman Library last year, with the addition of *Arnold Bennett's The Old Wives' Tale*. Strangely enough, none of *Sir Walter Scott's* novels, not even *Ivanhoe*, appeared

in Collins's list of the popular 50.

Palgrave's *Golden Treasury* continues to have the biggest sales of all the 530 *World's Classics* published by the Oxford University Press.

Translations of ancient classics are still best-sellers. The *Odyssey* was the most successful of the Penguin Classics, 500,000 copies of it having been sold since it was first issued in 1946. Second in the Penguin Classics is Robert Graves's translation of *The Golden Ass* of Apuleius.

"Classics" is a word that frightens some people; but the truth is that the treasures of literature still provide the greatest pleasure to readers, young and old; they never fail.

## In the Air

By the C N Flying Correspondent

### Crescent-wing H. P.

HANDLEY PAGE has been a name associated with heavy aircraft for more than 40 years, and the new Handley Page bomber, HP 80, is characteristically powerful-looking and big.

It is a giant crescent-winged bomber propelled by four 8300-lb. thrust Sapphire jets fitted in the wing roots. Reputed to be supersonic, the plane has a long, cylindrical fuselage with a drooping pointed nose, and a swept-back fin surmounted, T-style, by the tail-plane.

### Delta flying-boat

A TWIN-JET, delta-wing flying-boat has made its first flight in San Diego Bay, California.

The plane, built by Convair, has novel hydro-skis which virtually lift the plane off the water.

### West German airline

A NEW Lufthansa (Germany's pre-war airline) is to be formed shortly to operate a world-wide network of services to the United States, South America, Near and Far East, and within Europe.

The line will operate 12 twin-engined airliners and 12 four-engined airliners.

### African short-cut

ONE inconvenient geographical feature of the North African coastline is the wide bay separating Tripoli and Benghazi, the two great cities of Libya.

As the plane flies, the distance between the two cities is 416 miles; as the bus goes, the distance round the bay is 660 miles and it takes 36 hours. Cargo boats are infrequent.

Now, however, Silver City Airways are to open up a direct route between the two points, and the time will be reduced to 2½ hours. Their commodious Bristol Freighters, carrying passengers, motor vehicles, freight, and cattle, will do much to improve Libyan trade.

### Canadian banger

A SLEEK, silver jet-plane sped down from the upper limits of the stratosphere towards the airport of Malton, Ontario, and in the cockpit test pilot Jan Zurakowski watched the needle of his Mach-meter creep round to the figure 1.

On the ground, expectant officials learned the news almost immediately—a loud bang told them that the Avro Canada Canuck, the Dominion's home-designed all-weather fighter, had become the first Canadian plane to exceed the speed of sound.

### New BOAC route

A RECENT agreement between Britain and Japan will enable an air route to be opened from London to Tokyo. B.O.A.C. will probably open this route in 1954 with 98-seat Bristol Britannia prop-jet airliners. Japanese airliners can land at Hong Kong, Singapore, London, and Prestwick.

The Children's Newspaper, January 17, 1953

CRAVEN HILL, reporting from Regent's Park, writes that the . . .

## BIRD-OF-PARADISE DOES NOT KNOW IT IS WINTER

FEW of the London Zoo's birds are looking their best at this season, but there is one notable exception. This is a Greater Bird-of-Paradise, which has just begun to display.

The bird—one of the larger kinds—came from Indonesia last spring, and lives by itself in a cage at the bird house. Every now and then it spreads its enormous side plumes like two halves of a divided skirt. It then bends forward and throws them over its back, when they suggest nothing so much as an illuminated waterfall—quite a breathtaking spectacle.

Mr. John Yealand, curator of birds, told me that the reason for the bird's display at this time of year is that in its native land the seasons are the opposite to those here, and the bird is still sticking to its normal routine. "Of course, it's quite understandable," Mr. Yealand went on, "for we keep the house heated, so the bird has really no idea of what season it is here. The displays will probably continue throughout the winter. At the moment they occur only two or three times a week, but will become more frequent."

THE Zoo carpenters have had a big job—building a half-ton crate for the Polar bear Susie to travel to Ireland.

Susie, 27 years old and weighing about 1200 lbs., has been disposed of to the Dublin Zoo. Her departure is in line with the London Zoo's policy of replacing some of its more elderly animals with younger and more active specimens before Coronation visitors flock to the Gardens.

The crate to contain Susie is one of the stoutest made in the carpenters' shop since the war. It needed to be, for Susie is an ex-

remely powerful animal. In addition to being metal-lined, it is reinforced with stout iron bands.

Susie has spent most of her long life on the rocks of the Mappin Terraces. She was found as a cub by a party of Cambridge students, who lassoed her in Greenland in 1926.

At the Zoo, she has at times shown a sense of humour rare in a white bear. Thus, on seeing a crowd of visitors watching her bathing from the corridor opposite her enclosure, she will hurry out of the water and charge as though about to leap across the intervening ditch.

She never does, of course, but she seems to enjoy the discomfiture her action provokes!

THE cold weather has brought some embarrassment to the menagerie in the form of a large flock of gulls which are now daily haunting the Gardens in the hope of picking up scraps of food.

So troublesome have these gate-crashers become that special arrangements are being made at the Three Island Pond enclosure to ensure that the marauders do not deprive the flamingos of their breakfast.

As soon as the flamingos are released from the warm shed in which they spend the night, a keeper sets down their food-pail, containing brown bread, shrimps, and grain, beside the water. Then he stands by until the flamingos have taken their fill.

As the flamingos eat they are invariably watched with envious eyes by some 20 or 30 gulls, all lined up on the nearby rails of the enclosure. When the flamingos have fed, the gulls make a concerted and noisy raid on the pail to see if there are any "left-overs."

## ANIMAL NEWS FROM THE JUNGLE

A report by the Uganda Game Department describes how an official heard a great squealing of elephants in the jungle and, cautiously approaching the spot, saw two nervous-looking lions in the branches of a tree, round the foot of which a family of elephants were gathered.

They consisted of a bull, six cows, and a number of calves of different sizes. The lions had tried to pounce on one of the babies and had been chased up the tree by the whole indignant family.

Father was trying to get at the shrinking lions with his trunk while the others were encouraging him by excitedly trumpeting. Eventually the lions slid down the tree and made a dash for it, pursued for some distance by the elephants.

In future those lions will have to stick to bush-pig, which, the report tells us, has become the lions' staple diet in areas where other game has been thinned out in the effort to control tsetse-fly. Pork every day can become monotonous, but the lions are doing a useful service in keeping down the bush-pigs, which damage crops.

Road traffic is another hazard for Uganda lions. One of them was run into by an African on a motor-cycle. The incident came to light when the motor-cyclist sent his machine to a garage for repair. With it was a letter explaining:

"Personally, I am very ill on account of a collision with a lion. The motor-cycle fell on me and broke my leg. The lion was also injured, and because of the shock it did not harm me."

Gorillas avoid motor-bikes, elephants, and everything and everyone else. There are thought to be only about a dozen of them on two mountains in Uganda, and perhaps a few more in the Kayonza Forest.

The formerly extremely rare white rhinoceros, however, is increasing. There are now between 300 and 500 of these magnificent animals in the Colony.

Crocodiles put on weight in Uganda; one of them caught in the Semliki River was 19 feet 6 inches long; good living may account for their size, for another crocodile was found with a python 15 feet long in its stomach!



The Children's Newspaper, January 17, 1953

# GATEWAYS TO SUCCESS

## 6—Post Office Engineering Training School

THE gateway for a boy wanting to become a Post Office Engineer is the Regional Training School.

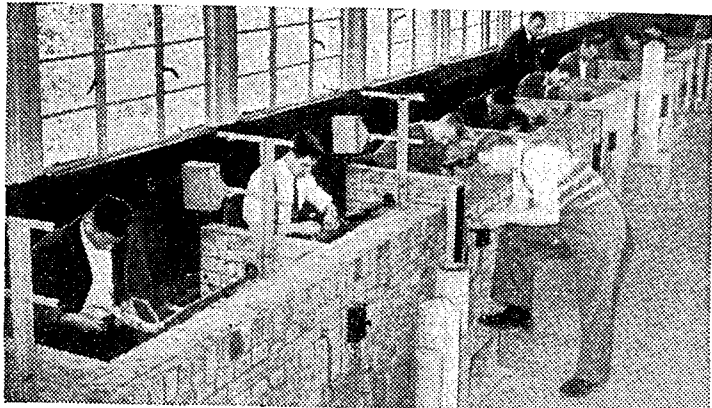
There are ten Regions throughout Great Britain and Northern Ireland, sub-divided into 45 Telephone Areas. So if you want to know your nearest training school, write to your Area Telephone Manager.

To take one example, the South-Western Region, covering the territory between Cheltenham, Southampton, and Land's End, has its Engineering Training School at Shirehampton, five miles from the centre of Bristol on the road to Avonmouth. Here it is that would-be Post Office Engineers are taught the "how" and "why" of the telephone service and the various skills needed in their job.

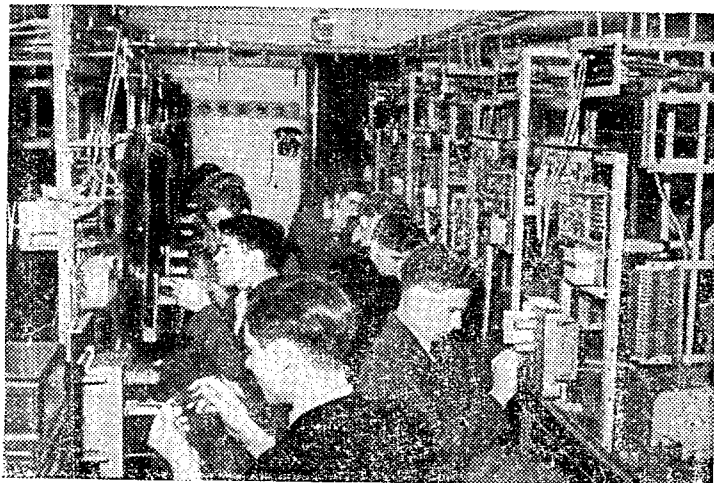
The school consists of a converted private house containing offices, staff rooms, and recreation rooms, and on rising ground behind, there are huts containing



Installing a telephone



Senior students practising cable-jointing in a workshop



Second-year trainees learning to adjust exchange equipment

lecture rooms and elaborate set-ups of telephone apparatus of all kinds for demonstration and practical study.

Beyond all, on a gentle slope, there is a regular plantation of telephone poles of various heights where students can practise the rigging and servicing of overhead lines, starting on short poles reachable from ground level and working up to tall ones requiring ladders. And, by the way, the Principal of the school told me he had never had a lad through his hands who minded heights.

THE school only closes for two weeks in the year, for as soon as one course is finished another takes its place. Incidentally, the boys who are going to work in the big western radio stations at Somerton, Portishead, and Leafeld, do an introductory telephone course at Shirehampton.

The age of entry into the Post Office Engineering Department is from 15 to 16½, and a School Leaving Certificate with credits in maths is an advantage. In any case, it is the lad who is good at maths that is wanted, and applicants have to pass an initial test. This helps to weed out those not likely to get very far, for it must be remembered that every student here costs the country £450 for his first two years' training.

As a matter of fact, this test is nothing to be frightened of, for any 15-year-old should be able to pass it. The first question, for example, is simple multiplication of decimals.

At the beginning of our talk and tour of the premises the Principal made a very important remark.

"We are here," he said, "to study the telephone service and produce the engineers who will carry it on. But you have to remember that engineering is so absorbing that you can easily spend your life thinking of nothing else. It needs quite a strong character to keep up a reasonably intelligent interest in outside affairs, and we do our best to encourage outside interests."

Recruiting is done through the local Area Telephone Manager, who will be the successful applicant's employer. On acceptance the recruit starts a period of 101 weeks' training, for which he gets deferment of military service. And when he does eventually go into the Forces there is an arrangement that he shall do his service in Signals so that there may be no serious break in his experience.

At first the budding P.O. engineer will be sent out with an overhead gang consisting of a foreman, leading hand, and two gang hands, working on overhead lines in or near his home district. He reports to gang headquarters (usually the garage where its lorry is kept), and then starts learning some of the strange language of the telephone service.

The recruit soon learns that he is now a "Y.2 Y.C." (Youth on 2 Years' Course), that a hacksaw is a "Saw, Hack, No. 1," and so on.

Next he meets the work. It might be a little digging, perhaps, if a pole needs to be set up. Then he will see how wires are run, and watch the fitting of pole steps or the spindles on which insulators are hung. Later he is shown how to use the safety belt and is taken aloft.

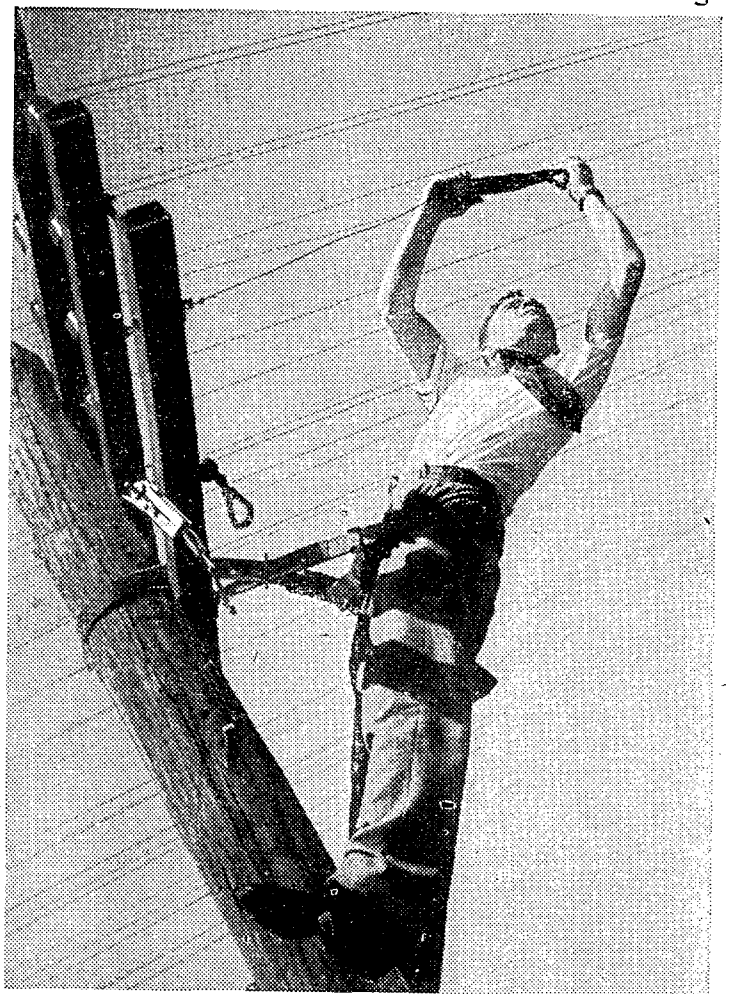
After some weeks he changes over to the care of a "Subs. Fitter" ("Subs." stands for subscriber) and studies the work on private installations. Following a month or so of this he should be ready for the first or "A" Course at one of the Post Office Engineering Schools.

Some of these are residential, but at Shirehampton students live in approved lodgings in the village, unless they have relatives or friends within easy reach.

THE "A" course starts with a simple mathematics test. Then comes a week of studying technical electricity. Next, students start intensive work on the telephone, including fitting and simple faults.

Then they proceed to the underground work—ducts, jointing, and so on. They are not literally "underground." The hut displaying this phase of the work contains a line of brick bays, each representing a manhole with the wiring and joints exposed. Each side wall of a bay represents what would be hundreds of yards' distance in actual practice. Next comes outside work on poles and wiring with exercises and tests.

By the end of his first course of five weeks the trainee will be in his fifth month of service, and the school will report on whether he is better fitted for external or internal work,



Aloft on one of the poles at the school, a student fits ratchet and tongs to overhead wires before adjusting the tension.

and whether, after further experience, he is to be recommended for the "B" Course, which is more advanced and lasts eight weeks.

So back he now goes to his Area under the guidance of a skilled man. During this time he spends periods of about three months doing various jobs on subscribers' apparatus, on P.B.X. (Private Branch Exchange), on exchange construction, or perhaps teleprinters.

If he feels he is short of experience in any particular branch he can always go to his supervisory officer, and say so.

WHATEVER time he spends on this stage, he will be back at the school for his "B" Course, if he is to take it, within 12 months of finishing the "A." Now he studies electrical measuring instruments, the theory of Alternating Current, the different types of exchange (private, manual, automatic, in-

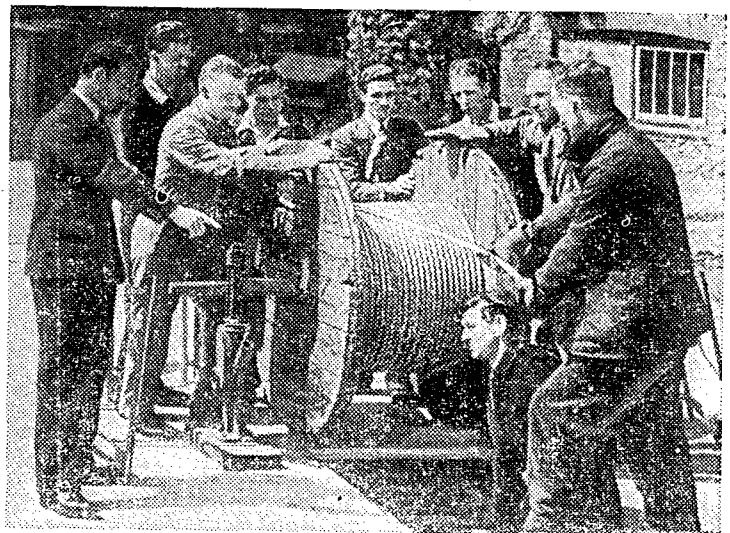
cluding trunks), and power supplies.

I looked into a lecture that was going on upon the Cord Type Switchboard. The instructor was pointing to a chalk diagram on a blackboard.

"Plugging into the exchange line we get 'S' relay to operate. What happens then? Mr. Jones? (silence from Mr. Jones). Mr. Smith?" and so on.

In another room I saw how students learn the mechanism of the dialling system and, in yet another, I looked over a telephone exchange with the lid off, so to speak, where students could plug into each other on various circuits and trace faults to their source. They had to think aloud, for the instructor's benefit, while they did so, in order that he could check their reasoning.

It struck me that these lads were in for a life's work, and a very fascinating one at that.



Unreeing cable from a drum into an underground duct



# Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House  
Whitefriars · London · E.C.4  
JANUARY 17 . . . . . 1953

## THE YOUNG IN HEART

ONE of the most moving passages in the Queen's broadcast to her people throughout the world was the one devoted to an appeal to keep alive that courageous spirit of adventure which Her Majesty described as "the finest quality of youth."

But youth, as the Queen said, is not simply a matter of years. She spoke to all those "who are young in heart, no matter how old they may be," and she exhorted them to be adventurous, as well as those who are younger in years.

It was the mark of the era of the first Queen Elizabeth that old as well as young became skilled adventurers. They travelled and invented, wrote and painted and composed under the favour of their "Sovereign Lady." It was the day of the "young in heart" and this country became great because of them.

That greatness can be renewed now in our own Elizabethan era by the young in heart.

The young in heart are those who reject the garments of gloom. The young in heart are those who have faith in themselves. The young in heart are those who believe that the best is yet to be.

And the young in heart are right!



## Under the Editor's Table

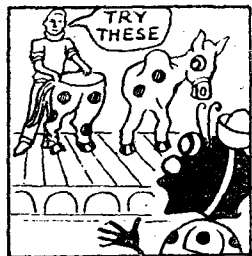
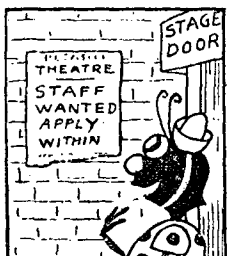
PETER PUCK  
WANTS TO  
KNOW

If ghost trains  
are made up of  
bogus carriages

Some famous people have no side at all, says a writer. So you cannot get round them.

Instead of quarrelling, neighbours should talk things over. The garden fence?

BILLY BEETLE



A man is trying to sell a house of character. Hope it is a good character.

A motor-bus driver is said to be a good political speaker. He certainly knows when to stop.

A little girl has been given a new dress for passing an examination. Fitting reward.

At an all-night sitting in the House of Commons an M.P. started making a speech in his sleep. And woke others up.

## The Editor's Table

### LIFE-SAVING COURTESY

It is thought that the number of children killed on the roads last year will prove to be the lowest since the present records were started in 1926. The previous lowest figure was 868—in 1950.

The continuing tragedy of our times is that hundreds of children should needlessly lose their lives each year on the roads, but real progress is being made.

"Compared with 1951," says General Young, of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, "all road deaths are down by one a day, and the final analysis should reveal that road injuries have been about twenty fewer a day."

The Society believes that the improvement is due to the steady spread of courtesy and consideration for other road users, so they have decided to make A.D. 1953 a "Still More Courtesy Year."

### There's grace in a Thank you

WE are all inclined at times to take little acts of kindness for granted; a curt nod or an absent-minded grunt are all we offer for a helping hand or a cheery word. But a blind man recently took the trouble to say Thank you in a touching way to those who have smoothed his path.

Every day Mr. J. R. Franks makes a dark journey from Mortlake to Hammersmith in London, and now he has written a letter in Braille to the busmen on his route, expressing his gratitude "for all the attention they have shown to me."

He has set an example to many who enjoy the blessing of sight. There's much grace in a Thank you.

### Sugared pill

FROM Indonesia comes the story of an ingenious plan to get native children to be vaccinated under a programme arranged by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (Unicef).

The children were invited to a cinema where the main feature was a Tarzan film. At yet another place the attraction was a party, with peep shows, lemonade, sweets, and balloons.

To each show the children flocked happily, and without a word of complaint paid the admission fee—a shot of anti-tuberculosis vaccine in the arm!

### Putting a name to it



Jean Seantlebury, a 17-year-old Sea Ranger of Egham, on the Thames, painting her boat's name on a lifebelt.

### Thirty Years Ago

At a meeting of school teachers the other day an old-time master was referred to who administered to his pupils 911,500 canings, 124 floggings, and 1360 taps with the ruler. He had made 700 boys stand on peas, 600 kneel on sharp edges of wood, and 5000 wear the fool's cap.

From the Children's Newspaper, January 20, 1923

### So let us live

Come, track with me this little vagrant rill,  
Wandering its wild course from the mountain's breast;  
Now with a brink fantastic, heather-dressed,  
And playing with the stooping flowers at will;  
Now moving scarce, with noiseless step and still;  
Anon it seems to weary of its rest,  
And hurries on, leaping with sparkling zest  
Adown the ledges of the broken hill.  
So let us live. Is not the life well spent  
Which loves the lot that kindly Nature weaves  
For all, inheriting or adorning Earth?  
Which throws light pleasure over true content,  
Blossoms with fruitage, flowers as well as leaves,  
And sweetens wisdom with a taste of mirth?

Thomas Deu'leday

### THE EVER-YOUNG BRIGADE

THE BOYS' BRIGADE, nearly 70 years old, marches on with the springy step of youth, and the Queen has taken her father's place as its patron.

The annual report shows the Brigade's strength as 101,945 all ranks, while the Life Boys, the Junior Reserve for lads from 9 to 12, has had an increase of 2265 members.

During the year covered by the report the Brigade gave £11,883 for charitable and religious objects at home, and £8881 for overseas missions.

Two boys won the Cross for Heroism, the supreme B.B. decoration, and six won the Diploma for Gallant Conduct.

The Brigade still calls forth an eager response from boys wherever its high purpose and emphasis on discipline and service are clearly set before them.

### Healing the scars

JUST over 12 years ago Coventry Cathedral was destroyed by German bombs, and scars were left not merely in stone, but in the minds of men.

Now German Christians, with a noble gesture, are striving to re-establish brotherhood in Christ between themselves and the people of Coventry; they are to present a window to the Chapel of Unity in the new cathedral.

"It is a most remarkable and memorable thing," says the Chairman of the Reconstruction Committee. "It seems there is a feeling for the healing of old wounds on both sides."

The lesson for us all is that in the hearts of true Christians there is no room for rancour.

### JUST AN IDEA

As George Macdonald wrote:  
This is the highest learning,  
The hardest and the best,  
From self to keep still turning,  
And honour all the rest.



### OUR HOMELAND

Nunnington Hall in Ryedale, Yorkshire, now in the care of the National Trust.

The Children's Newspaper, January 17, 1953

### THINGS SAID

THE 16 and 17-year-olds in our schools are the finest people I have ever come across in my life.

Dr. E. R. Matthews, chairman of Bath Marriage Guidance Council

I CONFESS that I sometimes go to sleep at the cinema. I love a film and I am sure you all do, but don't confuse it with the theatre. They are two different arts and they should not be lumped together.

Dame Sybil Thorndike

LEARNING a modern language is a hard discipline, but hard work is not incompatible with modern youth, in spite of what many people say.

Lecturer at Reading University

THE first Elizabethan era was one of extensive exploration of the globe. Space travel, I believe, will be an accomplished fact within the second Elizabethan era.

Member of the British Interplanetary Society

IT seems to take about 20 years and a war to develop an enthusiasm for education, and then we lose it in about 20 days; and when economy is the order of the day the education service is at the top of the list.

General Secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters

### IN THE COUNTRY

LENGTHENING daylight in January begins to fall upon dim patches of green that show where spring is already stirring.

The sunlight down the hedges shimmers with dancing specks—gnats and midges pirouetting in the warmth. Aloft, a skylark trills in silvery notes, not the exuberant joy-notes of April, but more subdued, soft warbling.

But though the weather on one day may be pleasant enough to tempt spiders to rouse themselves and spin webs of silk over crevices in the grey bark of trees, the next day may bring a chill air and a frowning sky to remind birds and insects alike that they have been over-hasty in greeting the spring.

And the yellow coltsfoot which had put forth its star of promise folds its petals again. Winter is still here.



The Children's Newspaper, January 17, 1953

Let THE HUT MAN be your guide to Nature's . . .

## HIDDEN HAUNTS



To most of us the countryside is a pleasant land of meadows, fields, hillsides, and moorlands, all caught in a network of hedgerows, lanes, streams, and old stone walls; a land where exciting discoveries are to be made, usually at unexpected moments, among birds, animals, insects, and plants.

All too often, however, these discoveries are few and far between; we may walk for miles—enjoying the ever-changing landscape, it is true—but without those encounters with small creatures which add so much to the interest of a country walk.

Why should this be so, when byways and woodlands alike teem with a vast and varied population? The reason is that the creatures of the countryside are shy and wary, and, to a great extent, stay-at-homes.

### THEIR OWN CORNERS

They have their own little sheltered corners where food is to be found without wandering far afield; or, if they are exploring hunters, their paths are by hidden ways, through the tangled herbage of the hedgerow ditch, under overhanging banks of the stream, between the lichened stones of old field walls.

Most ramblers neglect these hidden little corners during walks, their attention taken up with vaster landscapes of fields and hillsides, moors and woods; and so they pass unnoticed the little creature crouching so close to them, though it may be very alertly observing them:

*Nor shell-pink ear not fluttery nose,  
Nor dainty fan of milk-white toes,  
Nor taper tail betrays where she,  
The little wood mouse, watches me.*

In this new series of talks about the countryside we are going to consider these hidden haunts of the fields and woods where intimate meetings with the wild creatures may be enjoyed once we know just where and how to look for them.

### WATCHING AND LEARNING

We will learn which stream-lovers we may expect as we sit beneath a grey arch of a bridge; what travellers may pass close by as we rest beside a field dyke or at the foot of a hedgerow bank; what home-dwellers we may find among rocks on an open hillside, or who it is forms the population of a roadside spinney or woodland glade.

Then, in addition to the pleasure of walking in the country, we will have learned the even greater pleasure of sitting still . . . of resting in secluded corners seldom visited by the rambler but so well-known to the wild creatures themselves. In these corners we will

enjoy the exciting experiences we read about in books or listen to in wireless programmes, for no matter which corner we select we will be surrounded by thousands of fascinating things.

We may start by examining whatever is nearest to us, be it a grass-stem, a leafy twig, or a face of mossy rock. What discoveries we can make in such seemingly familiar things once we have learned how to see all the little details that are strange to us!

While we are thus employed, a tiny bee or fly alights in front of our eyes; is it merely going to rest, or feed, or prepare a wonderful nursery cell? Before we have made this discovery a churring wren flits through the twigs or between the rocks, and we can see the glint of curiosity in her bright eye; or a rustling of grasses draws our attention to where the keen face of stoat or weasel has paused to look at us before resuming his hot-scent hunt.

Such are the moments which make us companions of the wild creatures, which bring to us the full excitement of the countryside; when, instead of searching for its inhabitants, we settle in their own chosen haunts, leaving them to come to us.

### BY PLANE, BY TRAIN

"Goodbye, Dad. By the time you reach Upminster I shall be near Rome," is what we can imagine this cheery young air



stewardess saying to her father at Hounslow West station.

Father is driving a District Line electric train to Upminster, Essex, a journey which will take him about 1½ hours, and Joan Whitrod is just off on her first flight as a Comet stewardess. She will be approaching Rome as he brings his train into Upminster.

Joan used to work for London Transport, too, but the sky beckoned, and after several years' spare-time service in the Air Rangers, she was accepted by B.O.A.C. as a stewardess.

## Merry-hearted philosopher

It would be difficult to imagine anybody less like the popular idea of a philosopher than George Berkeley, who died on January 14, 1753, just 200 years ago.

He was full of Irish fun and wit, kindness, and extreme modesty. Everybody felt at ease in his presence. His wide circle of friends included such notable literary men as Swift, Steele, and Addison, as well as Pope, but he never held himself aloof from humbler folk.

George Berkeley was born in Ireland in 1685, and educated at Kilkenny School and Trinity College, Dublin. His Dublin companions at first regarded him as an eccentric and ragged him unmercifully, but their amusement soon turned to admiration. When he passed his Master of Arts examination—conducted in public—his success was greeted with "unprecedented applause."

### 24 YEARS AT TRINITY

Berkeley's connection with Trinity College, which he entered in 1700, did not end until 1724, when he resigned his appointments as a Senior Fellow, Senior Proctor, and Lecturer in Hebrew to become Dean of Londonderry. But much of the intervening time he had spent abroad on special leave granted by the College authorities.

Berkeley might have settled down comfortably in Ireland on the salary of over £1000 a year which the position of Dean of Londonderry carried. But he became inspired with a desire to spread Christianity in the American colonies, and threw up his post with the intention of founding a college for missionaries in Bermuda. His new salary was to be £100 a year.

By sheer enthusiasm and charm of manner, Berkeley succeeded in obtaining a Royal Charter for the new college, and persuaded Parliament to grant him £20,000. Without waiting for the money he sailed for Rhode Island to complete his arrangements on the other side of the Atlantic, taking with him a bride, who went "with great cheerfulness to live a plain farmer's life."

### WAITING IN VAIN

For two years, Berkeley waited on Rhode Island for the money which never came. In his absence, Parliament had changed its mind.

Broken-hearted, he returned to Ireland to become Bishop of Cloyne and to write his scholarly books, which are still highly thought of. He also wrote one, now almost forgotten, on the value of tar water as a cure for many diseases, a curious belief he had picked up from the Red Indians.

Promotion was offered him, but refused. He was content to remain striving to make life happier for the unfortunate Irish peasants.

Then, in 1752, Bishop Berkeley moved to Oxford. The king would not hear of him resigning his bishopric, but said he could live where he wished. And so, at Oxford, this cheerful scholar died—as peacefully as he had lived.

## CONTROLLING TRAINS BY PUSH-BUTTON

A revolutionary system of railway signal control, unique in Britain, has been put into operation on a section of the District and Central Lines at Ealing Broadway, London.

The chief feature of the scheme, which will cover a busy half-mile section of lines used by 500 trains a day, is a signal cabin containing a control desk of an entirely new type which enables 50 signals and points to be operated by illuminated push buttons.

Levers of the usual type are eliminated, and in their place are 43 raised transparent push-buttons which glow red, yellow, or green when they are pressed to actuate the signals and points. Only finger-tip pressure is required.

This system of coloured lights is very simple to understand. When the signals are at "red," the button for that route is also coloured red, and when a button is pressed to select a route its colour changes to yellow.

After the route is set and the signals cleared, the colour of the button changes from yellow to green and remains so until the signals have been replaced to danger by the passage of the train, when the button reverts automatically to red.

This self-restoring principle of

the buttons means that the signalman need only press the button once.

The new signalling apparatus can also act as a "memory box." The signalman working it can plan train routes in advance and pre-select them by depressing buttons to operate signals for two train-moves ahead. The correct signal changes are made in their proper order when the track is clear.

A complicated system of electrical and mechanical devices make harmless any wrong movements of the operator. Even if all the buttons were depressed at once, there would be no danger of collision on the lines.

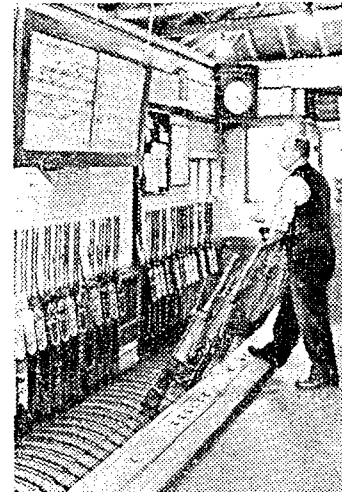
Instead of having to pull over heavy levers, the signalman is now able to sit in comfort at the desk and have all the controls within easy reach. In order to leave his hands free to manipulate the push-buttons, he has a microphone and loudspeaker instead of the usual telephone.

An illuminated diagram located behind the control desk shows the signalman the conditions of the track circuits, signals, and points in the area under his control.

About 200 miles of wire with 25,000 terminations have been used on the installation.



The new push-button signal-box equipment is compared with the old-style levers in these London Transport photographs.



## CANADA REMOVES A REPROACH

Canadians are looking forward to the time when their homeland will no longer qualify for the dubious distinction of being " . . . the only civilised country in the world lacking a National Library." This phrase was used in the report of a Royal Commission presided over by Mr. Vincent Massey, now Governor-General of the Dominion.

A site has been chosen in Ottawa for the National Library, which will take about three years to plan and build. It will accommodate about two million books, and will also house a new centre containing a guide to the contents of every other library in Canada.

By Act of Parliament two copies of every book published in Canada must be sent to the National Library, which may become a "British Museum in miniature."

## ALUMINIUM AS ROCKET FUEL

Metallic fuels are being considered for future rocket motors.

Aluminium in powder form burns quite readily, and this principle can be used to produce a rocket motor operating in much the same way as a gunpowder rocket. The main difference is that a powdered-aluminium rocket would be far more powerful than any similar rocket—midway between the performance of the best liquid rocket fuels and the nuclear reactors of an atomic rocket.

Scientists have calculated the amount of fuel needed to power an aluminium motor. In developing 3000 lbs. of thrust, one ton of powder would be used up in just over half-an-hour. Two hours' fuel supply might use as much metal as would be employed in the construction of a single-seater jet aircraft.



## WHITE STAG IN THE HERD

A little drama of nature is being enacted in the forest of Sunart, Argyllshire.

Some time ago a white stag was seen roaming the Highlands alone, shunned by its kind. When the outcast vanished from its usual haunts, observers thought it had taken to the lonely gullies and had become a "hermit."

Now it has appeared again, and is no longer an outcast; it mixes with its fellows and follows the herd unmolested. Apparently the herd have got used to the albino and are accepting it as one of their kind.

Now that the white stag is one of the herd, naturalists hope that it will also remain unmolested by hunters, as its white coat may help them to shed some light on one of Nature's mysteries—how long does a deer live?

Old Highlanders believed that deer have a life-span of as much as 200 years. A stag shot at Tornacorra in 1826 was reputed to have lived at least 150 years; the evidence was its peculiar ear-markings, which were the "trade mark" of a gamekeeper who had worked in the forest in 1676.

## HOME COMFORTS PATENT

Some curious inventions have been illustrated in an exhibition at the Patent Office, London.

One device which, alas, never reached the production stage was a rocking-chair vacuum cleaner. It needed a crew of two—one to sit gently rocking while the other applied the suction nozzle to the carpet.

Another useful gadget was intended to be worn by snorers. It rang a bell at the first snort.

Useful, too, for some people, would have been wristbands to prevent fluid running up the sleeves when eating something juicy. It might have been used, in conjunction with another bright idea—an aluminium bib with a trough to catch spilled food or drink.

## Steps to Sporting Fame



Few footballers have played in an F.A. Cup semi-final at the age of 16, but that was the experience of the Wolverhampton outside-left, Jimmy Mullen, in 1939.



Born at Newcastle-on-Tyne and a St. Aloysius schoolboy, Jimmy later moved to the Midlands. He was engaged as a Wolverhampton Wanderers junior in 1937 and was given tasks in the office and on the ground.



One day, the Wolverhampton juniors were joined by a fair-haired 14-year-old. It was Jimmy Mullen's first meeting with the future England captain, Billy Wright, and they have remained close friends ever since.



Mullen and Wright started their international careers together in January 1946. They were comrades, too, when Wolverhampton Wanderers won the Cup in 1949. Today their team is making a bold bid for League honours.

## CORAL ISLAND STORY

An author who was always a boy at heart was R. M. Ballantyne, whose famous South Sea yarn, *The Coral Island*, begins as a picture story in the CN next week. Generations of young people have loved his books because they find in them the cheerful spirit of boyhood.

Ballantyne himself was an adventurous person. He was born in Edinburgh in 1825, and when he was 16 he went to Canada to trade with the Indians for the Hudson's Bay Fur Company. He came home six years later and wrote a book about his life in the wilds.

More adventures followed, for Ballantyne took his writing for boys seriously, and sought first-hand experience for his tales. Thus he served as a fireman, went down mines in Cornwall, knew what it was like to be a lifeboatman and a lighthouse keeper, and visited Norway, Algiers, and South Africa.

He died in 1894 after producing about 100 books. Still the most popular of them all is *The Coral Island*, first published in 1857.

The South Sea islanders of the early part of the last century were far from being the peaceful, orderly communities they are now. Warlike cannibals were made more ferocious by ill-treatment from unprincipled white men. Strange dangers awaited the seafarers both good and bad, missionaries, traders, and disguised pirates, who sailed the Ocean of Adventure.

Today we can still find plenty of thrills with the three jolly lads in this story who were shipwrecked on a beautiful island, and had to fend for themselves.

## PLASTER SPRAYER

A machine which mixes and sprays plaster onto walls is now in use in America to speed the construction of houses.

Using conventional methods, a single plasterer is able to apply about 90 cubic feet of plaster in a day. With the machine his rate of working is speeded up to nearly the same amount of plaster each hour.

## WAGING A WORLD-WIDE WAR AGAINST DISEASE

One of the most significant and hopeful reports in the story of the United Nations is that of the various international organisations which are working to wipe out disease and generally improve the health of mankind in almost every corner of the Earth.

This campaign is led by the World Health Organisation of the United Nations (W.H.O.) the United States Point Four Programme of Technical Aid, and the Rockefeller Foundation. The motto of the world fight against disease is, "the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health." Seventy-eight nations are now members of W.H.O., which is prepared to send experts anywhere in the world where there is need.

Malaria is now Target Number

## WAXES NOT WANING

In a year America uses 1½ million lbs. of waxes of all kinds. Polishes, soaps, varnishes, greases, food packages, and candles use up the majority of the supplies. More than three-quarters of all the waxes have a petroleum base.

One in the world health battle. Last year W.H.O. gave protection to more than 50 million people, and helped countries to begin their own campaigns to protect another 450 million.

W.H.O. sees that the drug supplies to combat malaria, particularly of paludrine, never slows down.

In Indo-China the attack on trachoma with the drug aureomycin has restored good sight to many thousands of sufferers.

## DRUGS NOT ENOUGH

But drugs are not enough in this battle, and this is where the Technical Aid Programme of the United States comes in. This organisation concentrates on improving water supplies in the remote areas of the world, for water-borne diseases, like dysentery and typhoid fever are among the greatest threats to mankind.

Another battlefield has been in the Rio Doce Valley of Brazil, one of the world's richest mineral regions, which was without proper sanitation or water supply. Seven years ago typhoid fever killed many people every year. The cam-

paign has greatly reduced the death rate, and malaria has been practically eliminated.

Alongside these campaigns, in which the United Nations co-ordinates the attack, there is the private enterprises of the Rockefeller Foundation which devotes part of its trust income to the elimination of disease.

Since the war hookworm has been the chief enemy of the Rockefeller Foundation, and now, in nearly every country in the tropics, the disease is under control.

Also, through the good work of the Foundation's special clinics in Samoa, Puerto Rico, and Jamaica, yellow fever is now no longer the deadly fever it used to be. In nearly 70 countries the Rockefeller Foundation has spent over £30,000,000 in combating disease.

## PRESIDENTIAL TUB

It has been revealed in an American television programme that an engraved glass panel in one of the bathrooms in Washington's White House bears this inscription: "In this tub bathes the man whose heart is always clean, and serves his people truthfully."

## MARCO POLO'S AMAZING ADVENTURES—the story of an epic journey (final instalment)



The Polos reached Trebizond safely and went on to Venice, arriving, with the great wealth they had accumulated, in 1295. They had been away 24 years. There is a story that when, shabby and travel-stained, they knocked at the door of their house, their relations did not recognise them, and would not let them in—until they showed them the rich jewels which they had sewn into their clothes!



Marco's friends were fascinated by his stories of all the wonderful things he had seen in Kublai Khan's vast empire, but they did not believe him. They gave him the nickname of "Messer Marco Million," because when he told them of the enormous wealth of the Khan, and of his huge revenues, he kept speaking of "millions" of gold. Europeans in Marco Polo's day knew nothing about China.



After all his strange adventures, Marco became involved in one which must have seemed to him quite ordinary—a sea-battle. A year after his return, Venice was at war with the city-state of Genoa. Marco, as captain of a war-galley sailed with the Venetian fleet. Off the coast of Asia Minor, they fell in with the enemy, who, though inferior in numbers, captured most of the Venetian ships, including Marco's.



Marco was taken to Genoa. He met another prisoner-of-war, a literary man named Rustichello of Pisa, who persuaded him to make a book of the story of his travels. Marco was no writer, so he dictated to Rustichello; to whom we owe this famous work. Next year Marco was released and took the written volume to Venice. There, his adventures over, he married, and there in 1324, at the age of 70, he died.

A new picture-version of R. M. Ballantyne's thrilling story, *The Coral Island*, begins on this page next week



The Children's Newspaper, January 17, 1953

A popular author's thrilling serial of Queen Anne's day

# THE SILKEN SECRET

by Geoffrey Trease

Dick Arlington, an 18th-century boy, is staying with Charles Mount, a Derbyshire silk-manufacturer, and his niece Celia. One evening a man is heard singing in an unknown language beneath the window, and Mr. Mount seems strangely alarmed.

## 6. The man from Italy

FROM that evening, Mr. Mount was like a man haunted. Celia noticed the change in him, and Dick told her what had happened, but neither of them could imagine why a scrap of foreign song, heard in the night, should have had such an effect upon him.

Then, one golden afternoon in early October, they heard the unknown singer again.

They had gone for a walk in the woods and had come to the high wall of Lathkill Park when Dick suddenly stopped.

"Listen!"

On the far side of the wall a man's voice was singing. Dick recognised the same haunting tune. And Celia, who had taken singing lessons, knew the language.

"It's Italian!" she hissed. "We must find out who he is."

Dick nodded. The wall was about seven feet high, and there were woods on both sides. He could swing himself up, and see without being seen.

From his perch on the wall he could see only a distant glimpse of the great white mansion through the trees. He was far more interested in the figure of the singer just vanishing down a narrow track.

"We must go after him!" cried Celia, heaving herself up beside him. "We must find out where he goes, and who he is."

By this time the mysterious stranger had disappeared, his brown coat blending perfectly with the tree trunks. Celia had scarcely seen him at all. Dick could swear only to a brown coat, medium height, and a sorrow face. Unless they could find out something more definite than that, they would be no wiser.

Dick hesitated no longer. He dropped off the wall and held out his arms to catch Celia as she followed. Then, together, they hurried down the path between the fir trees.

"There he goes again!" Dick whispered.

They slipped among the trees in case the Italian should look back. Unfortunately, the dense branches made it much harder to get along, and when they reached the sunlit edge of the plantation there was no sign of the stranger.

"What do we do now?" Dick muttered.

He was a little daunted by the magnificence before him.

The grounds stretched to the balustraded terraces of the house

itself, which sprawled at the foot of a steep ridge, with a hundred windows winking back at the sun.

It had been all very well to stalk the stranger through his lordship's woods, but Dick hesitated before going farther.

"What if any one sees us?" he muttered unhappily.

"What if they do? Look, there he goes!"

Celia pointed. The stranger was walking across the grass. Then he vanished round the corner of a tall hedge of clipped yew.

"That must be the famous maze," Dick had heard of the Lathkill Maze, designed to out-do the one at Hampton Court.

CELIA was already racing across the grass, like a hound in full cry. She sped along the side of the maze. It was all Dick could do to overtake her as she turned the corner. Four unexpected rustic steps opened before them, twisting down into a sunken dell, shaded by a weeping willow. Celia tripped, screamed, and flung out her arms. They reeled down the steps together, and collapsed on the leaf-strewn grass at the bottom.

"Oh!" she gasped, horrified, as she sat upright.

Of the stranger they had been following there was no sign. But they were by no means alone.

On the side adjoining the maze the steep slope of the dell had been scooped out and reinforced with huge boulders to make an artificial cave or grotto. Inside were half a dozen elegant ladies and gentlemen. Seated on rocks, on which velvet cushions had been thoughtfully placed, they were drinking pale China tea from cups of eggshell thinness. Now, at the sudden noise, they started up.

"What does *this* mean?"

The young couple picked themselves up as a tall, languid figure sauntered forth, quizzing them through an eyeglass.

## YOUNG QUIZ



- 1 What is the title of the ruler of Tunisia?
- 2 When does the financial year officially begin?
- 3 What is a Minister Without Portfolio?
- 4 Alleviate means to light up, to relieve, or to leave out?
- 5 What is an almanac?
- 6 In which year was the Football Association Challenge Cup first awarded?
- 7 What is campanology?
- 8 Whose collection of rare books and manuscripts started the British Museum?

Answers on page 12

He was elderly. Under the powdered wig the long sorrow face was deeply lined. But everything else—from the froth of lace at the throat to the fashionable high red heels—was exquisite. It could only be Lord Lathkill himself. It was.

"I BEG pardon, your lordship," Dick gasped. "We're from the Mill House. This is Mr. Mount's niece, and—"

"Ah, trades people!" The nobleman put infinite scorn into the word. He swung a cane on a long ribbon of lavender silk, as though half-minded to apply it to Dick's back, yet half-reluctant to soil it with such a low contact. "How dare you trespass in my park? Interrupting my picnic!"

"We didn't mean to interrupt you, my lord," said Dick, promptly doing so again. "But we saw a— a suspicious character!"

"And we thought it our duty to follow him," said Celia.

"A suspicious character?" repeated the old nobleman. "In what way?"

"A foreigner, my lord!"

"An Italian—stealing through your woods, my lord!"

Lord Lathkill flung up his head and let out a well-bred, affected little laugh, rather like the neigh of a horse. He turned to his guests with a flourish.

"Pon my soul, ladies, this is vastly diverting—vastly! These young hobbledheys were in pursuit of a suspicious character, a sinister romantic foreigner, stealing through my woods!"

"But he was!" Celia's voice cut defiantly across his lordship's speech and the tinkling ladylike laughter which had accompanied it. "If you don't believe us, look! There he is!"

She pointed. The stranger had appeared again, walking unconcerned along the opposite rim of the dell. She saw him glance down at the tableau beneath him and pass on without any sign of alarm. In another moment he was out of sight.

AGAIN Lord Lathkill neighed with amusement. "This is too delicious! You saw, dear ladies? The innocent object of their dark suspicions? Poor Foscari, my new Italian gardener—a capital fellow at cutting a shrub, but the last man, I vow, when it comes to cutting throats!"

He turned to Dick and Celia again, who were standing there red-faced and foolish. His lordship's expression changed abruptly. "Be off with you," he ordered in a tone of blighting contempt. "If you are caught on my land again, my servants shall deal with you."

"We meant no harm, my lord," said Dick resentfully. They were not dirt to be spoken to thus. But there was nothing to do now but

Continued on page 10

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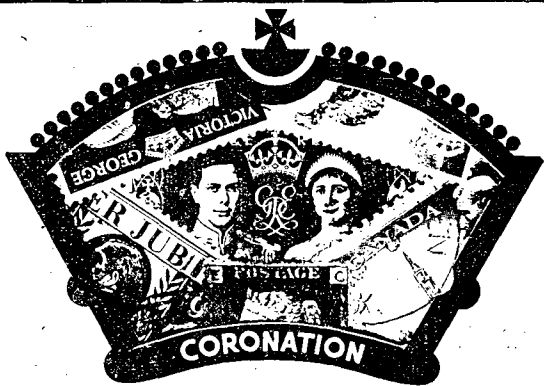
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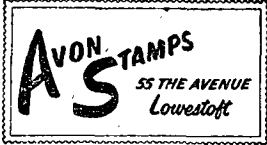


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## SPORTS SHORTS

**PATRICK MORGAN**, 15-year-old pupil of Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall, plays for a local youth club's Soccer team on Saturday mornings, and the Rugby side in the afternoons. He is also a member of the Staffordshire County Youth Rugby Union side.

**ANOTHER** young Australian lawn tennis player who will be seen at Wimbledon next year is Clive Wilderspin. He has already beaten several of the leading Australians, and tennis fans in Perth, where Clive lives, are subscribing to pay his fare to Britain.

**THE** Noel-Bruce Cup, one of the most important rackets trophies, has been won for the seventh time by the Old Rugbeians, represented by D. S. Milford and P. Kershaw.

**BERT SUTCLIFFE'S** 385 runs in the match between Otago and Canterbury at Christchurch was the highest score ever made by a New Zealand cricketer, and the sixth highest score in all cricket. The innings lasted just over 7½ hours.

**PAM MORTIMER**, 20-year-old Birmingham table tennis player recently won the women's singles, the women's doubles, and the mixed doubles in the Birmingham Closed Championship. Having already gained Warwickshire honours, she may become a member of England's team in the near future.

**THE** world cycling mileage record for a year is 75,065 miles and not 62,657, as reported in the C.N.

### Learning the right way

**Mr. H. F. W. Zinke**, assistant sports master at Kingston Grammar School and a former Indian hockey trials player, teaching the boys some points about the game. Extra coaching in schools is part of the Hockey Association's plan to improve the standard of play in this country.



**T. E. KEEGAN** of the Walton A.C. won the club's 7-mile cross-country championship, and on the same afternoon his younger brother, 17-year-old G. A. Keegan, was first home in the youths' event.

**BRITAIN'S** continued improvement in athletics is reflected in the 1952 world rankings published in America. Fourteen of our athletes earned placings as against five in 1951.

**YOUTH** Soccer teams from 14 countries, including England, Eire, and Northern Ireland, will take part in an international tournament to be held in Brussels at Easter.

**ALTHOUGH** he has been playing squash for only two seasons, 20-year-old Denis Hughes of Streatham is in the Welsh team to play England this Friday. Denis, who is studying to be a chartered accountant, is the son of the tennis referee, E. Garfield Hughes, and has also made great progress in that game.

**THE** Indian cricketers are having a non-stop world tour. Last summer they visited this country; then they went home for a Test series against Pakistan; and within a few days of the last match they flew back to England on their way to the West Indies for another Test tour.

## THE SILKEN SECRET

Continued from page 9

to withdraw with dignity, and show Lord Lathkill that good manners were not confined to one class alone. He stood aside and motioned Celia to mount the steps in front of him, under the drooping branches of the weeping willow. "We did not meant to interrupt your picnic," he added.

"But as you have done, I think you owe us a little entertainment in return. I have been waiting for a good opportunity to show my guests how well my weeping willow—weeps."

**SOMETHING** in the old man's mocking tone made Dick glance up at the tree overhanging the rustic steps. Now, for the first time, he realised that the willow was not quite what it seemed. Leaves, branches, and bark seemed

completely natural, but concealed among them he caught the glint of metal pipes, running like veins to the tip of every limb.

"Come on, Celia," he said quickly, but not quickly enough.

Lord Lathkill had stepped back into the grotto. His elegant fingers curled round a stop-cock half-hidden in the rocky wall. There was a sudden, terrifying hiss, like that of a thousand snakes let loose, and from every branch of the willow an icy stream came down. It was like a silvery curtain—and the two young people were caught, shocked and breathless, in its folds.

It was useless now to think of a dignified withdrawal. Drenched and bedraggled, they went stumbling up the steps. Lord Lathkill's neigh followed them out of sight.

To be continued

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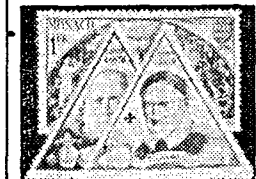
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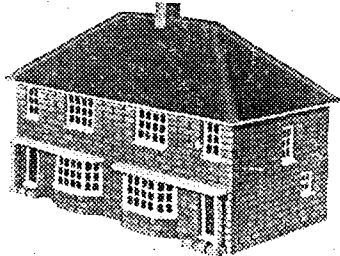
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(CN), 2 Western Gardens, London, W.5



The Children's Newspaper, January 17, 1953



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## PET MARJORIE OF KIRKCALDY

"She is the most extraordinary creature I ever met with," wrote Sir Walter Scott of Margaret Fleming, who was born on the 15th day of January 150 years ago. "Her repeating of Shakespeare overpowers me as nothing else does."

For Pet Marjorie, as she was affectionately called, was only six when she could hold the attention of her friends by reciting from memory long passages from the poets. At seven she was familiar with the writings of Dean Swift and Robert Burns, Gray's "Elegy in a Country Churchyard"—as she spelt that title—and, above all, "Shakespeare of which I have a little knowledge . . . and my Bible."

Not that she found all school work easy. "I am now going to tell you the horrible and wretched plague that my multiplication gives me," she wrote. "The most Devilish thing is 8 times 8 and 7 times 7; it is what nature herself can't endure."

### PRIMMED UP WITH PRIDE

At the age of six we find her writing this, her first letter: "Miss Portune, a lady of my acquaintance, praises me dreadfully. I repeated something out of Dean Swift, and she said I was fit for the stage, and you may think I was primmed up with majestic Pride, but upon my word I felt myself turn a little birsay." Birsay was a word invented by her young brother William, who could recite the first lines of the Scots Catechism before he was two.

Not always was Marjorie well-behaved. "I confess I have been very more like a little young devil than a creature," she wrote in her Diary, "for when Isabelle (her sister) went upstairs to teach me

religion and my multiplication, I stamped with my foot and threw my new hat which she had made on the ground and was sulky—but she never whipped me but said Marjorie go into another room and think what a great crime you are committing letting your temper get the better of you. But I went so sulky that the Devil got the better of it."

Poor Marjorie! She really was very sorry for these bouts of wretched sulkiness and bad temper, and strove to make amends for them, perhaps by working hard collecting earthworms for her aunt's song thrush or by learning off by heart more long passages from the poets.

### LIVELY POEMS

Her own poems are full of life. Of Mary Queen of Scots, she wrote:

*Queen Mary was much loved by all,  
Both by the great and by the small,  
But hark: her soul to Heaven doth rise  
And I suppose she has gained a prize—  
For I do think she would not go  
Into the awful place below.*

The budding young poet wrote these lines before she was eight. Unfortunately, medical science had not advanced far in her day and after an attack of measles she died suddenly a few weeks before her ninth birthday.

In his famous Dictionary of National Biography, Sir Leslie Stephen himself wrote: Her life is probably the shortest to be recorded in these volumes, and certainly she is one of the most charming characters.

Most people will agree!

### STAMP NEWS

TEN stamps being produced in Nicaragua will commemorate the signing of the Charter of San Salvador, by which the five Central American Governments agreed to work for better understanding.

ITALY has issued two stamps to mark the centenary of the birth of painter Antonio Mancini and sculptor Vincenzo Gemito.

PORTUGAL's latest stamps are a set of four commemorating the fourth centenary of the death of St. Francis Xavier.

SPECIAL United States stamps will honour the National Guard, Ohio State, Washington Territory, and the Louisiana Purchase.

### LIFE-SAVERS BREAK A RECORD

Last year was the Lifeboat Service's busiest in time of peace. Their boats went out to the rescue 656 times, more than even the war-time yearly average, which was 617.

The Royal Lifeboat Institution gave rewards for the rescue of 447 lives. Six life-boatmen won two silver and four bronze medals for gallantry, and a Sidecup boy also won a bronze medal.

Our sea rescuers may be proud of continuing a wonderful tradition.

### BICYCLES FOR TWO CN READERS

Congratulations to the following two readers who have each won a bicycle in our Christmas Cards Competition (No. 16):

Althea Tinsdale,  
"Keverne,"  
Duppas Hill Road,  
Croydon, Surrey.

James Maginnes,  
20 Marsden Gardens,  
Carehill Road,  
Belfast.

The ten 10-shilling note consolation prizes have been awarded to: Ann Bailey, Thetford; Colin Battell, Stamford; Annette Crosbie, Keswick; Dorothy Fielding, Rossendale; Christopher Kinsley, Whitburn; Barbara Rawden, Ilford; Violet Reid, Fairhill; N. V. Smith, Leeds, 11; Jacqueline Walker, Sanderstead; John Yorke, Sheffield, 6.

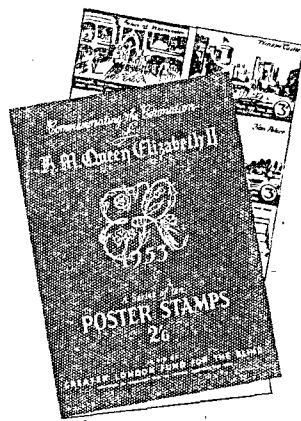
### CONCRETE PLUS GLASS

It is claimed that tiny glass bubbles mixed with concrete increase its strength when set. The concrete is also lighter, and is now being produced as a building material.

### MOUNTAIN-TOP TELEPHONE

A radio-telephone has been established 12,000 feet up Mont Blanc. The 550 lbs. of equipment was transported by some of France's special mountain troops, the Chasseurs Alpine.

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## THE BRAN TUB

### HIDDEN PLAYERS

The names of four Hibernian footballers are hidden in the following paragraph. Can you find them?

"I CAN'T decide whether to go to the play on Friday or Monday," remarked Pip. "How I envy you," young Ernest said. "John Stoneyhurst saw it last week and said it was the best show he has seen."

Answers next week

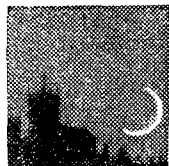
### Out and in

JACK said it would be very nice to go and skate upon the ice. So off he went, with skates and all. But Jackie had a nasty fall! When he went out, the ice was thin, and promptly Jackie went right in!

### OTHER WORLDS

IN the evening Venus and Mars are in the south-west, and

Jupiter is in the south. In the morning Saturn is in the south. The picture shows the Moon at six o'clock on



Saturday evening, January 17.

## BEDTIME CORNER

### Billy solves a mystery

BILLY was playing on the carpet with his trains when he heard his name called from the front of the house.

That must be Paul, he thought, and went to the door. But no one was there.

That's funny, thought Billy. I'm sure I heard my name called.

He went back to his trains—and almost immediately he heard his name again. But there was still no sign of anyone outside.

Billy went into the kitchen. "Did you call me, Mummie?" he asked.

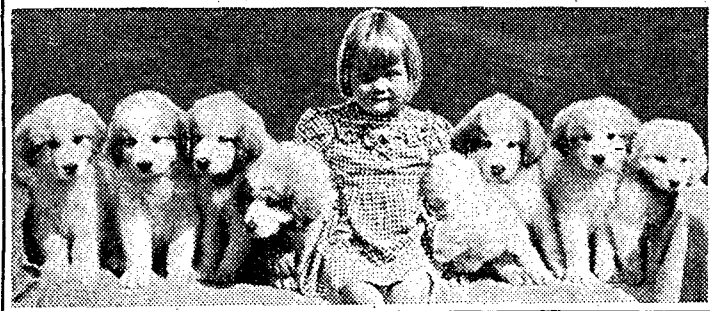
"No, son," said Mummie, busy with her cake-making.

Billy looked puzzled. "It must be Paul playing a joke," he muttered, and marched to the house next door.

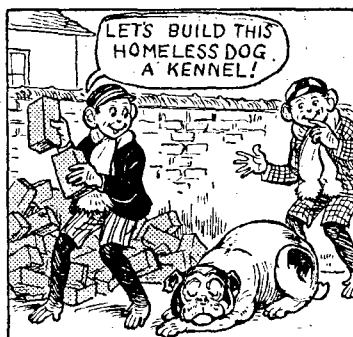
"Have you been calling me?" he demanded, as Paul opened the door.

"Why, no—" began Paul. Then a grin spread over his face. "No, I haven't, but a friend of mine has. Come in. I'd like you to meet him."

### Nine makes jolly fine company



## JACKO AND CHIMP LEARN TO LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE



The chums were quite concerned when they found a "homeless" dog.

### In the basket

IF these jumbled words are properly rearranged they will spell six things found in Mother's needlework basket. See if you can find them.

SNUBTOT BEHIMLT  
NIPS CSOSRSIS  
DEARTH EELENDS

Answers next week

### Sammy Simple

SAMMY had been told by one of his friends that ravens live to be 200.

"I don't believe it," he said. "It's true," asserted his friend. "Well," replied Sammy, "I'll ask my father to buy me a baby one and prove it for myself."



They thought that such a sturdy-looking dog deserved a sturdy kennel.

### FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

A HANDSOME FINCH. "Look!" exclaimed Ann; "there's a pretty bird in that hawthorn bush."

Don saw a stocky little bird about six inches long. Its head and flanks were greyish, and the wings were edged with yellowish-green. "It's not all that pretty!" protested Don.

At that moment the bird flew off and they saw a vivid flash of yellow and green.

"It was a greenfinch or green-linnet," Farmer Gray explained. "When in flight their gay colouring becomes prominent. Besides being ornamental, greenfinches are useful, eating many harmful weed-seeds and insects."

### His chance to rise

THE boy being interviewed for a job had a question to ask.

"Shall I have a chance to rise here, sir?"

"Oh, yes," replied the manager with a twinkle in his eye. "We start at eight every morning."

### B YYY

"THREE letters to beware of," said Jane. "What can they be?"

"Well, I should say," Jim answered, "They must be N M E."

### CHAIN QUIZ

Solutions to the following clues are linked, the last two letters of the first answer being the first two of the second, and so on.

1. Attractive little animal of Australia; even in its home country it is becoming rare, and it has never successfully been transferred to a zoo.

2. Title of Tibetan priest; the chief one is ruler of Tibet; when he dies his successor is found after a wide search among male children born on the day of his death.

3. Island in the Atlantic, 400 miles from Africa; its pleasant climate makes it a popular holiday resort; has given its name to a wine and a kind of cake.

4. Scottish chemist who, with Rayleigh, discovered the rare gas argon; later work led to the discovery of helium, neon, xenon, and krypton.

Answer next week

### FIND THE WORDS

Missing from each of the following sentences are two words which according to their spelling should rhyme, but do not. Can you find them?

My friend showed me his tame t..... which has a nest in a b..... at the end of the garden. He scattered some bread on the g..... and soon there was a m..... of birds pecking it up. Then something made me c..... and, of course, they all flew to the top b..... of a tree.

Answers next week

### Lucky cat

"Oh, Mummy," said Jennifer "that black cat from next door is in the kitchen."

"That's all right," said Mummy, "we'll soon chase it out. Anyway, black cats are lucky."

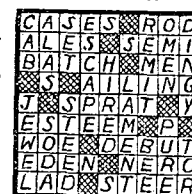
"This one is. It's just eaten our Tibby's dinner."

### YOUNG QUIZ—answers

- 1 The Bey.
- 2 April 1.
- 3 A Cabinet Minister with no departmental duties.
- 4 To relieve.
- 5 An annual calendar with astronomical and other data.
- 6 In 1871.
- 7 The art of bellringing.
- 8 Sir Hans Sloane.

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

A dog in it  
Doggerel, Dogger  
Bank, dogma,  
dogged, dogmatic,  
dogfish  
Chain Quiz  
Morse, Sograve,  
Venice, Cecilia  
Riddle in rhyme  
Bleak House



Sharps

the word for Toffee



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